

Application No. 08/480,908
Amendment dated December 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 27, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant cancelled independent claim 196.

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 49-68, 183-191, and 195-197 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner indicates that claims 49-68, 183-191, and 195-197 are unpatentable over claims 169-188, 190, 191-194 of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/047,545.

With this Amendment, Applicant is concurrently filing a Supplemental Amendment in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/047,545 cancelling claims 169-188, 190, 191-194 therein. Given the cancellation of claims 169-188, 190, 191-194 in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/047,545, Applicant submits that the provisional rejection of claims 49-68, 183-191, 195, and 197 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting is now moot.

In conclusion, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9, 11-25, 28-48, 69-145, 148-156, 158-162, 164-168, 170-174, 176-180, and 182 are allowed. Therefore, because the provisional rejection of claims 49-68, 183-191, 195, and 197 is now moot, Applicant submits that all of the currently pending claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are patentable. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the preceding comments. Issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this reply, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including

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any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-3726.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 4, 2007

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